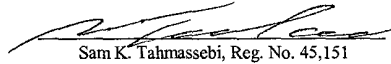


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shumate, et al.) Group Art Unit Not yet
) assigned
Appl. No. : Not yet assigned)
) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
) marked attachments are being deposited with the
Filed : Herewith) United States Postal Service as Express Mail in
) an envelope addressed to: U.S. Patent and
) Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington,
For : **LIQUID CHEMICAL**) VA 22202, on
) **DISTRIBUTION METHOD**) February 25, 2002
) **AND APPARATUS**) (Date)
) 
) Sam K. Tahmassebi, Reg. No. 45,151
Examiner : Not yet assigned)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the captioned application, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the first paragraph of the specification, page 1, lines 7-11, and insert therefor the following paragraph:

--The present application is a continuation of, and claims priority to, U.S. Application Serial No. 09/228,258, entitled "LIQUID CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND APPARATUS," which was filed January 11, 1999, by Shumate et al., which in turn claims the priority of U.S. Patent 5,985,214, issued November 19, 1999, both of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety, including any drawings.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all the pending claims 1-30.

Appl. No. : Not yet assigned
Filed : Herewith

Please add the following new claim:

31. (NEW) A chemical solution distribution system for distributing chemical solutions into multiwell plates having at least 384 wells, the system comprising;

a) at least one liquid handler comprising 48 or more, but less than 384, tips, said tips having a dynamic range of liquid dispensation of 100 to 2000 nanoliters, and

b) an orthogonal positioner, said liquid handler comprising a tip dispensing matrix with about 96 or more tips, being capable of moving said at least one multiwell plate with an X-Y location accuracy of at least ± 0.09 mm in X and Y.

REMARKS

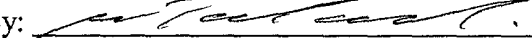
By present amendments, Applicants have included the priority information into the first paragraph of the application. Applicants have also cancelled all the pending claims and have replaced them with Claim 31, the sole claim pending after the amendments.

No fee is believed due in connection with the present amendments. If this is incorrect, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1410 for the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Feb. 25, 2002

By: 

Sam K. Tahmassebi
Registration No. 45,151
Attorney of Record
620 Newport Center Drive
Sixteenth Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660